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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

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- 1. During the second week in June, before the electoral returns had been officially tabulated, the Liberal Party in Colombia reportedly initiated its 1950 presidential campaign with the Directorate visiting several towns in Colombia. At a meeting in Cartagena, Jose Uribe Marquez presented Carlos Llerac Restrepo, co-director of the Liberal Party, and Dario Echandia, former Minister of Government and ex-President, as presidential candidates for the Liberal Party. It had been a foregone conclusion among Liberal leaders that Echandia would be the candidate. Although Lleras Restrepe had publicly stated that the Liberal Party would not be divided in 1950 as it had been in 1945, he had not made any effort to clarify his own stand in the carpaign.
- 2. Laureano Gomez, Director of the Conservative Party, had been contacted in Madrid where he had fled after the 9 April 1948 uprising, and was requested to return to Colombia to head the Conse vative presidential campaign. His return, which was scheduled for 25 June, and plans for his reception had received much publicity and had created unrest in Colombia. the continuation or increase of political violence after Gomez' return could result in civil war.
- 3. Roberto Urdaneta resigned his position as chief representative of the Colombian government at the United Nations in order to return to Colombia to participate in the campaign. He has been recommended as a Conservative presidential candidate by many of the Party leaders although he incurred the disfavor of President Ospina Perez for his activities during the recent congressional campaign.

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